

Zambia Copperbelt Livelihoods Project Effectiveness Review

Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Support Management Response- September 2012

Introduction: a short paragraph that gives minimal background information about the programme and why the evaluation was undertaken.

The Copperbelt Livelihoods Project is aimed at supporting approximately 1,000 small-scale farmers (of whom 60% are women) with inputs and improved access to markets in order to contribute to increased food and income security and decreased vulnerability. These interventions are aimed at reducing beneficiaries' vulnerability resulting from chronic poverty, low capacity, poor production, low market access and impact of climatic shocks, together with the high prevalence of HIV and AIDS which characterise the targeted beneficiaries. The project is delivered by a local partner, Sustainable Agriculture Programme (SAP), who focuses the activity in ten of their operational communities in Kitwe district in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia.

The project was selected for assessment primarily to understand how the project has contributed to empowering the supported women. However, it was quickly apparent that the key objective of the project was improving the livelihoods of the 1,000 beneficiaries (60% of whom were women).

Key findings and recommendations: an opportunity to highlight the key findings and recommendations from the evaluation. This is often most effectively done through bullet points, or tables, rather than in a narrative format.

Outcome	Finding	Recommendations
Strengthened women's empowerment	No conclusive evidence to show significance of this for supported women	Review options for making women's empowerment interventions more explicit and tangible in the project design.
Women's self efficacy	Supported women are less confident than women from the comparison group	Explore options to increase the effectiveness and impact of the project further by accompanying direct implementation with an advocacy strategy to make relevant policy and institutional changes
Increased ownership of strategic assets by women	The project appears to have had a positive impact in women's ownership of strategic assets	Follow up on some of the specific findings from this report with further qualitative analysis
Improved household income (as measured by household ownership of assets)	According to the analysis, a key project success has been in improving ownership of assets overall, between 2008 and the present	
Improved agricultural production	No significant increase in production between supported and comparison groups	Consider increasing efforts to further bolster agricultural production and support the marketing of agricultural commodities

Response to key findings: Linked to the above, the management response should also be used to accept, reject or qualify the evaluation findings, and provide an appropriate explanation.

I. No conclusive evidence to show significance of strengthened women's empowerment for supported women

Effective participation of women in decision making at household and community levels still faces major cultural and traditional challenges. More impact can be seen at community level where women are leaders in groups and development structures and less at household level where they still remain under patriarchal power. The programme will include assertiveness training for women.

II. Supported women are less confident than women from the comparison group

Reasons for this may be difficult to understand and further investigation may be needed. Naturally, supported women are expected to be more confident as they interact more and get exposure. Proximity to urban systems and structures as well as the nature support may play a role in this. This needs to be investigated further.

III. The project appears to have had a positive impact in women's ownership of strategic assets

This is expected as the project deliberately targeted more women than men.

IV. According to the analysis, a key project success has been in improving ownership of assets overall, between 2008 and the present

Similar to above reason, this is anticipated as women were the primary target in this project.

V. No significant increase in production between intervention and comparison groups

Difficult to understand the outcome in this as it contradicts the fact there is improved asset ownership which should have come from increased production/income.

Next steps: How will you respond to these findings? What adjustments will be made in your ongoing programme? How will you use the findings to inform future programming? You may want to include a proposed timeframe and define whose responsibility it will be to deliver which actions. This will enable you to be accountable for using the findings, and encourage more evidence-based management.

1. The findings will be used to review the current programme strategies to ensure more specific and tangible women's empowerment interventions are integrated like assertiveness training. From FY13/14 by EJ Coordinator with support from the Gender Coordinator.
2. Partner and Oxfam staff have recently received training in Gendered Enterprises and Markets (GEM) which the team is applying to ensure project design is more strategically tailored to women empowerment. EJ Coordinator is responsible and its ongoing.
3. The programme will strengthen its M&E systems that will include indicators of Women's empowerment. Deputy CD is responsible and work is in progress and will be completed within FY13/14.
4. Baseline data will be reviewed and will include measures of women's empowerment, Farm and livestock production, and income levels. EJ Coordinator will be responsible and will be done by 1st quarter of FY13/14.

Sensitivity: In accordance with our Open Information Policy, all programme evaluations will be made available on Oxfam GB's website and the website of key allies and networks. Exceptions will be made where evaluations deal with issues of a sensitive nature and/or pose a risk to our staff or partners (see the Public Information Disclosure Policy for more information on what qualifies as an exception). Where this is the case, Country Directors should indicate in writing that the evaluation is not

appropriate for external audiences and why. This can be incorporated into the management response where the Country Director is writing the management response. Alternatively, it could accompany the evaluation and the management response.

Note: The analysis and subsequent judgement made by the evaluation team must be respected, and it is not appropriate to suggest that they modify their assessment. Instead, the management response provides a space for the team or appropriate line managers to express concern with the quality of the evaluation, qualify evaluation findings, or explain if they reject the findings outright.

5. Further resources

Need for Oxford to share with country team the detailed evaluation tools (methodologies and usage) relevant to the projects and support re assessment of interventional strategies. The evaluation may need to be more explicit on the recommendations and to be relevant to the evaluated projects if meaningful adjustments and or changes to the projects are to be done.

6. Examples